

Message Text

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12

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COMMERCE FOR BEWT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, FR, CZ

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK/FRENCH ECONOMIC AGREEMENT

1. IN FRONT PAGE ARTICLE JANUARY 9, RUDE PRAVO ANNOUNCED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND FRANCE WILL CONCLUDE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT SOMETIME DURING FIRST HALF OF 1975 AS RESULT OF THREE-DAY TALKS BETWEEN CSSR MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE BARCAK AND FRENCH STATE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN TRADE SEGARD, HELD IN PARIS JANUARY 6 THROUGH JANUARY 8. A WORKING GROUP REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN SET UP TO DRAFT PRINCIPLES OF AGREEMENT IN WEEKS TO COME. ARTICLE STATES THAT SINCE ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES OF BOTH COUNTRIES CAN "CONVENIENTLY SUPPLEMENT EACH OTHER," IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO "FURTHER INTENSIFY, DIVERSIFY, AND DEEPEN MUTUAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS" BETWEEN CSSR AND FRANCE. (RUDE PRAVO CARRIED SMALLER ARTICLE SAME DAY REPORTING THAT CZECH MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS CHNOUPEK HAD RECEIVED FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRAGUE JANUARY 8 TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAK-

FRENCH BILATERAL RELATIONS AND CSCE TALKS. THERE WAS NO CONNECTION MADE BETWEEN THE TWO EVENTS.)

2. ACCORDING TO CZECH PRESS, BARCAK ALSO MET IN PARIS WITH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH, MICHEL D'ORNANO, AND STATE SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BERNARD DESTREMAU, AND WITH CERTAIN FRENCH INDUSTRIALISTS. WE RECALL THAT CSSR MINISTER OF GENERAL ENGINEERING, PAVEL BAHYL, VISITED FRANCE IN SEPTEMBER 1974 AT WHICH TIME HE ALSO MET WITH D'ORNANO. IT WAS ANNOUNCED AT THAT TIME THAT CZECHOSLOVAK-FRENCH INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION WOULD BE LIKELY TO CONCENTRATE ON ENGINEERING IN GENERAL AND AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY IN PARTICULAR. BARCAK IS REPORTED TO HAVE A VISIT TO RENAULT FACOTRY AT FLINS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT AND THIS WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM ANNOUNCEMENT MADE AFTER BAHYL'S EARLIER VISIT. IN LINE WITH EMBASSY EFFORTS TO FOSTER INCREASED SALES OF U.S. MACHINE TOOLS AND TRANSFER LINES TO CZECHOSLOVAK AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY, WE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ANY FURTHER DETAILS EMBASSY PARIS COULD PROVIDE ON BARCAK'S CONTACTS WITH RENAULT.

3. EMBASSY WERE TOLD BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIAL JANUARY 9 THAT BARCAK'S VISIT TO FRANCE HAD BEEN SCHEDULED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND HAD NOTHING AT ALL TO DO WITH DEVELOPMENTS CONNECTED WITH RECENT PASSAGE OF U.S. TRADE ACT OF 1974. OFFICIAL TOOK CARE TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT CZECHOSLOVAK TRADING RELATIONSHIPS WITH WESTERN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SUCH AS FRANCE ARE LIKELY TO EXPAND MORE RAPIDLY BECAUSE OF CONTINUED RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON TRADE WITH U.S.

4. ACCORDING TO CZECHOSLOVAK STATISTICS, CSSR-FRENCH TRADE HAS GROWN BY EIGHT PERCENT OVER THE YEARS 1970-1974, REMAINING IN ROUGH BALANCE OVER THE PERIOD. IN 1973, CZECHOSLOVAK IMPORTS FROM FRANCE TOTALLED 444 MILLION CROWNS (\$78 MILLION) AND CZECHOSLOVAK EXPORTS TO FRANCE WERE SLIGHTLY LOWER AT 430 MILLION CROWNS (\$74 MILLION).
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